



The College of Graduate Studies and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Cordially Invite You to a

PhD Dissertation Defense

Entitled

*AN ANALYSIS OF GOTHIC CONVENTIONS IN ABU AL-REESH'S UMM AL- DUWAYS AND
SAADAWI'S FRANKENSTEIN IN BAGHDAD*

by

Amna Matar Al Neyadi

Faculty Advisor

Marlene Allen Ahmed, Department of Languages and Literature
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Date & Venue

18:00

Thursday, 08 October 2020

Abstract

Gothic as a literary form first appeared in late eighteenth-century British literature, when Horace Walpole described the second edition of his novel, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), as a Gothic story. From that time, and throughout the nineteenth century, Gothic continued to exist in English literature and other European nations' works of literature. This dissertation aims at proposing and delineating the existence of Gothic elements in modern Arabic novels. In doing so, this research demonstrates that the Gothic genre is part of contemporary Arabic novels, even though Arab literary criticism pays less attention to this fact. This study focuses on the Gothic features in two contemporary Arabic novels. It examines the Gothic elements in Ali Abu al-Reesh's *Umm al-Duways* and Ahmed Saadawi's *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, analysing these works as examples of contemporary Arabic Gothic novels. Some Gothic conventions that are employed in these two works are the gloomy horrifying settings, issues related to identity crises, the mad/blessed woman and the theme of revenge. This thesis helps to define the Gothic genre within Arabic literature, especially since it has received little attention from literary scholars. It also assists in identifying the convergence between the English and the Arabic Gothic novel.

Keywords: Gothic fiction, Contemporary Arabic Gothic novels, Emirati Literature, Iraqi Literature, Gothic and fairy tales, Gothic and Politics.